THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Under the Ministry of Defence, only Defence Research and Development Organization, and Border Road Development Board are exempted from the purview of the Right to Information Act 2005. However, information pertaining to the allegations of corruption and human rights violations are not exempted.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CAG report on inflated figure of sales by BEML

1419. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the C&AG in his recent report on the working of BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.) has stated that the company has inflated its sales by Rs. 894 crore; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter and the action taken/proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BEML has been advised to ensure that sales are booked appropriately and also have a re-look at its sale accounting policy.

Shortfall in intake of officers in armed forces

1420. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been shortfall in the intake of officers in the armed forces of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has studied the reasons for this shortfall in the intake of officers;

(d) if so, the findings thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to attract the talented youth in the armed forces of the nation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) There have been shortfalls in the intake of officers in the Armed Forces for a variety of reasons which include availability of employment opportunities in other sectors, tough selection procedures, difficult service conditions coupled with perceived high degree of risk involved in service career.

A number of steps have been taken to attract the talented youth to join the Armed Forces. All officers including those in Short Service Commission (SSC) are now eligible to hold substantive rank of Captain , Major and Lieutenant Colonel after 2, 6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.